critical digest

139 East 47 St. NY 17 NY
EL 5-6894 T.M. Kraus

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This Week

Cynthia Latham entered cast of Hotel Paradiso with only two rehearsals. Vera Pearce, who portrayed Bert Lahr's wife, was forced to quit cast at start of week due to illness, and her understudy, Lucille Benson, bowed at week's end due to laryngitis. Miss Latham entered show at Saturday matinee with only two quick rehearslas.

Plays

Ziegfeld Follies to close this week after 124 performances, tour planned to start in August in Toronto... Separate Tables to play month of Aug at Central City, Colo, returning to Music Box Sept 2 ...Leonard Sillman's New Faces to open Sept 5 at Broadway. Show will have material from 1952 and 1956 editions and will feature Jimmy Cisco, John Laverty, June Carroll, Virgina De Luce... Sillman's An Evening of T.C. Jones to bow Sept 10 at Golden... The Doctor Inspite of Himself will open in November at ANTA Playhouse ...Cut of the Ax to be presented in Nov. by John Fearnley-David Gray, Jr.

Players

Carlyn Maye subs for month for Jo Sullivan, Most Happy Fella... Joan Holloway hired as stand-by for Gwen Verdon, New Girl in Town... Walter Pidgeon to delay vacation 4 weeks to Jul 29 while replacement sought... Phyllis Love hired as lead in The Egghead ... Judy Holliday plans to vacation from Bells Are Ringing Aug 26-Sept 7... Mark Dawson subbing for George Wallace, New Girl in Town, latter ill from phlebitis... Maria Palmer has replaced Gusti Huber, Diary Anne Frank... Jose Ferrer to direct, adapt The Captain's Paradise .

Tickets

Decision on tour managers buying of legit tickets reserved in NY Supreme court hearing by Judge Arthur Markewich .

Theatre Film Notes

Audrey Hepburn will star in Diary of Anne Frank to be produced by George Stevens.

Show Planes

Betty Murray planning monthly English show-plane tours.

Calendar

Kalediscope-Provincetown 6/13 Stainbrook-McKee present new revue with cast of ten. Postponed from 6/11. ...School for Wives-Theatre Marquee 6/19. J. Robert Dietz presents new version of Moliere play... Othello-Stratford, Conn. First bill of season with Earle Hyman, Alfred Drake.

Special Events

"Comedians' Hall of Fame" to be established in NY, sponsored by Charles Conway... NJ Theatre League convention attended by representatives of 85 groups... Anthony Kadlec, Univ of Utah, won French's National Collegiate Playwriting contest for The Army Game.

TV Theatre Notes

American Theatre Wing TV program "Command Performance" to be presented in fall bi-weekly, Ezra Stone director.... Rudolf Friml to write musical for next season's US Steel TV show.

Children's Theatre

The Adventures of Wyatt Earp to be presented Jun 11 at Lambertville, NJ by Desmond Children's Theatre... Teatro del Piccoli Attori, Italian puppet-marionette company, presented 3 performances at Columbia University.

Vaudeville

Everett Marshall, Alan Carney head Palace show... "Big Town" revue at Music Hall headed by Melissa Hayden, Ronnie Ronaldi... Central Theatre, 47th and Broadway, to present 4-a-day-all negro revue Seven Eleven.

Other Broadways

Boston Shubert leased to Benjamin Sach, motion picture operator, for 15 years Plymouth acquired by Ben Sack who will use it as film house, renaming it Gary.

London

Ionesco's Amedee presented at Arts, Cambridge... Anouilh's Traveller Without Luggage to be presented next at Phoenix... Titus Andronicus production with Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh, Anthony Quayle opens July 1 at Stoll.

Off Broadway

Theatre Macabre to present Grand Guignol programs starting July 18 at 63 E 11. Horror plays will be presented every midnight with coffee served after each showing. Mary Learson is producer, Bill Forrest director. First bill will include The Fire.

School for Wives to present Fri & Sat shows at 8 PM and a late show Fri at 10 15PM, also a Sun matinee at 5 PM... Ever Since Paradise by J B. Priestley to be presented July 11 at Carnegie Recital Hall by Richard Silver-Marilyn Shapiro. With Haila Stoddard, Whitfield Connor, directed by Mark Gordon... Land Beyond the River to be sent on tour by UAW next month... Dolores Sutton replaced Nancy Rennick, Career... Sylvia Miles and Lucille Saint Peter Joined The Iceman Cometh

Summer Playhouses

New summer house opening at Phoenicia, NY, Paul Klebar producer, Adrian Hall director... Harold Kennedy opens second season at Grist Mill Playhouse, Andover, NJ, July 14 with Robert Preston in Inherit the Wind ... Frances Farmer opens tour in The Chalk Garden in August at New Hope, Pa ... Anybody for Love musical to tour circuit starting at Spring Lake, NJ, Aug 19 with Irene Manning, Renato Cibello. Book and lyrics by Burton Crane, music by Jane Douglass White... Pocono Playhouse, Mountainhome, Pa. opens 11 season Jun 17 with The Sleeping Prince with Joan McCracken.

Brussels' Fair

Instead of 15 major dance, stage, music attractions planned for US exhibit of Brussels' 1958 Worlds Fair, attractions will probably be limited to groups touring next year in Europe.

College Theatre

Summer workshop of American Theatre Wing opens at Cape Playhouse, Dennis, Mass June 24... Barnard's Gilbert and Sullivan Players to present repertory on 8 week-ends this summer at Minor Latham Playhouse starting July4 ...Harvard University left $1 million by John Loeb for modern theatre building.

Hits Revisited

Happy Hunting is still an uninspired musical comedy, reports Hobe, Variety, at second viewing. Not even the two new songs by Kay Thompson or the top form of Ethel Merman can hide this fact. The book, which must have seemed promising on paper, has become even more dated and strained with continued playing. Except for "Mutual Admiration Society" songs sound no less ordinary than before. Six months of playing have not improved the performance of Fernando Lamas, trade paper mugg panned.

Arts Council Urged

400 prominent persons in arts and public life signed an appeal last week urging Congress to enact bills to aid the arts. They seek the establishment of a Federal Advisory Council on the Arts in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Clarence Derwent, chairman of National Council on the Arts and Government, made public the appeal. Signers from theatre field included---Leonard Bernstein, Marc Connelly, Helen Hayes, Celeste Holm, Howard Lindsay, Josh Logan, Gilbert Miller. Paul Muni, Elmer Rice, Edward G. Robinson.

At hearings seventeen witnesses urged the passage of the bill providing such a council. Witnesses from the theatre included---Gilbert Seldes, Howard Lindsay and Clarence Derwent. Sub-committee on Education on Labor and Public Welfare met in NYC at US Court House and plans another hearing soon to hear those opposing the bill.

Out of Town Theatre

Cat on Hot Tin Roof in Chicago... Fallen Angels, My Fair Lady and No Time for Sergeants in Los Angeles ... The Matchmaker and The Apple Cart in San Francisco

Summer Tryouts

The Man in the Dog Suit, new comedy by William Wright and Albert Beich, adapted from Edwin Corle's novel "Three Ways to Mecca" to debut at Hinsdale, Ill June 17 and then play Ogunquit, Matnick, Dennis and Westport. Melvyn Douglas director, cast includes Hume Cronyn, Jessica Tandy, Isobel Elson, Betty Garde, Elliot Reid, John McGovern.

Back to Methuselah, GBS play with new adaption by Arnold Moss who will portray GBS as well as direct. Celeste Holm and E. G. Marshall in cast, Presented by Theatre Guild. To open 6 week tour at Coomamesett.

The Mistress of the Inn-, musical adapted from Carlo Goldoni's comedy "La Locandiera", with music by Don Walker and book by Ira Wallach. Directed by Ezra Stone. Opens July 8 at Bucks County, Penn.

Fever for Life by Orin Borsten, directed by Henry Weinstein. Opens Aug 6 at Westport with John Kerr, Miriam Hopkins.

Device used by the New York City Opera

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS

"Jesting Apostle" by Stephen Winsten (Dutton) is a crisp, readable small-scale biography dealing with the most interesting portions of Shaw's early life, approves Donnelley, World-telegram & Sun.. Author was friend and neighbor of playwright, and learned many things which author feels are fundamental to an understanding of the older man.

"Out Without My Rubbers" by Hugh Anderson, the autobiography of John Murray Anderson, is amusing saga of a great showman, reports Coleman, Mirror. Murray died too soon, critic states, but the success of his discoveries would have given him a glow.

"Collected Plays" of Arthur. Miller (Viking) with comments by the author recommended by Atkinson, Times. Record of achievement contained in his book is definitive proof that the masterpiece was no accident. It was derived logically from a fine mind, an austere conscience and a creative pen.

THEATRE RECORD COMMENTS

"Oedipus Rex" two record album (Caedmon) taken from the sound track of Tyrone Guthrie film, recorded at Stratford, Ontario production is testimony to one of the few safe generalizations one can make in esthetics: that in art there is no progress, okays Lask, Times.

"New Girl in Town" original cast (RCA Victor) billed as excellent disc production by Herm, Variety. Gwen Verdon registers well in her vocal assignment... "Silk Stockings" film sound track (MGM) with Fred Astaire-Cyd Charisse will be one of top albums of year, predicts trade paper mugg

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For Stage Struck Only

* This weekly NYC theatre newsletter digests--complete theatre news(page 1) --reviews of all current openings(pg 2) NYC critics suggestions on theatre books, records (page 2). Plus comments by critics on theatre subjects(page 3). And complete business & critical data (page 4). Weekly summer issues cover summer scene in NYC and summer playhouses.

* $25 year complete. Includes free yearly spring back binder and free research services.

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Organization.....

GREEN

ROOM

DEPARTMENT

BEST BETS...Best dozen plays of year picked by Chapman, News--Long Day's Journey Into Night, The Potting Shed, A Visit to Small Planet, Small War on Murray Hill, Waltz of the Toreadors, Candide, A Moon for the Misbegotten, Seperate Tables, Orpheus Descending, The Reluctant Debutante, The Hidden River. Best single performance to cast of Long Day's Journey. Jose Quintero was picked as best director.

COLUMN TIPS...Producer of a recent Broadway flop still hasn't paid for the lavish opening night party, reports Wilson... Peggy Lee is being considered as replacement for Judy Holliday during her vacation from Bells Are Ringing, hears Kilgallen.

SUMMER PROBLEMS...Rising costs of scenery, royalties, advertising and high salary demands are plaguing the summer circuit, comments Porter, Post. While the larger straw hats are happily optimisitc, the smaller ones are not so cheerful. The top price of the smaller barns is $3, and that's for Saturday night. They can't dare raise their prices to cover their constantly increasing costs, Post business editor notes. But nevertheless, the vitality of the straw hat circuit is unmistakable. The growth of leisure time, the trend to country and casual living, our whole way of life are boasting the development.

DRAMA MAIL BOX..."Ballet" dance in New Girl in Town tabbed as obscene by Times reader...Fine work of stage hands and stage manager of My Fair Lady praised for keeping everything under control after recent accident, okays a C. D. subscriber.

FAIR GAMBLE...With one in four legit shows that opened a financial success, McClain, Journal American, views the odds as a very fair gamble. Such odds are much better than the stock market or even drilling for oil in Texas.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS...Current season with at least ten good plays cannot be dismissed as a poor year, states Watts, Post. There could certainly be no objection this season to the quality of the acting, he added...Current crop of producers are true gentlemen who use their power wisely, approves Coleman, Mirror.

SECOND GUESSES...Simply Heavenly is one of those theatrical enterprises in which the image of man himself is so firm and finely realized that criticism subsides and sheer pleasure takes over, raves Kerr, Herald Tribune. The performing, in every instance, is perfect. Career was okayed as a swift, crisp, reasonablydetailed case study of the life of an average actor by Herald Tribune critic...One of the most commendable services performed by Off-Broadway this season was the second chance it offered Take A Giant Step, comments Watts, Post. Touching comedy received a belated but gratifying triumph.

INTERVIEW HI-LITES...Since I'm in this business to act I'd rather stay Off-Broadway, than take tiny parts in Broadway shows, Charles Aidman, Career, told Herridge, Post. ..Robert Whitehead, who has produced 23 shows on Broadway, finds he leans toward American plays because he relates to them more readily, he told Hyams, World Telegram & Sun. The essential ingredient for him is the basic life of the play... Friday and Saturday night audiences are not in a hurry to catch the last train home, while Wednesday matinee groups are the loudest and gayest, rates Eric Portman, Separate Tables.

" PROS & CONS BY TMK "

Ten solid months of plays, on and Off-Broadway, have just been concluded. The past week was the first in forty that did not have one or more on and/or Off-Broadway debuts. And the season, as far as Off-Broadway and Shakespeare are concerned, is really far from over. Compared to recent years when the theatre season extended from mid-October to mid-May, this has been an abundant year.

* *

Summer theatres have mushroomed in the past few years for a variety of reasons. One of the most generally agreed upon is the fact that more people have more vacations and more leisure time. Though Equity lists about 200 summer houses, there are probably about 500 spread across the country. Though currently they are only training new theatre audiences to see past Broadway hits, the introduction of the joys of theatre-going to many thousands of new fans is an item to be cheered.

* *

"Fair gamble" of 25% chance of success in investing in Broadway shows is viewed by McClain, Journal American, as very good indeed. Taken from this optimistic viewpoint it is almost a wonder that more investors cannot be inticed into legit productions. Actually a large number invest in shows for personal reasons that has nothing to do with earning money. Some of the reasons are good, some are bad. But for the "form" investor the chances of return on his investment are much better than in other sports and/or entertainment.

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Walter Pidgeon's postponing of his vacation until a "suitable" replacement is found is a commendable action. But hardly the answer to the "vacation" problem in theatre. Producers set up their own future worries when signing a star and granting a four or eight week vacation, if the show turns into a hit.

* *

Congressional criticism of types of shows to be presented at US exhibit of 1958 Brussels' World Fair is childish. Guys and Dolls was vetoed as "undignified" and other musicals turned down for as valid reasons. Result seems to be that budget will be slashed to bone and that only touring dance and dramas in Europe in 1958 will be invited to the first major Worlds Fair in years. The various groups promoting federal aid to the arts must realize they have a vast education problem to solve before they can even begin to ask for such monies.

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Children's theatre at the summer barns is a new and delightful innovation that should spell profit and happiness to all concerned. Using the summer houses during the mornings and afternoons is an added source of income and interest to any group. Actors get more jobs and more experience and children, probably the world's best theatre audience, get an opportunity to see more theatre.

LONG DAYS JOURNEY Hayes $6.90	230 W 46 CI 6-6380	100% C- Raves for O Neill prize play-players 95% B- Cap $30--$28 $28 $27 $27 $30 Closed 6/29-8/18
MOON FOR MISBEGOT Bijou $5.75	209 W 45 JU 6-5442	40% C- 3 Pro-News, J. Am, Post-most mild script 75 % B- Cap $19--$14 $15 $14 $13
MOST HAPPY FELLA Imperial $7.50	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	90% C- 1 Con- H. Trib 70% B- Cap $57--$41 $44 $42 $43 $44 $54 $47 $36
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger $8.05	1655 Bway PL 7-7064	100% C- Unanimous praise for all concerned 100% B- Cap $68--$68 $68 $68 $68 $68 $68 $68
NEW GIRL IN TOWN 46th St $9.20	226 W 46 CI 6-4271	80% C- 2 Con- Times, Trib-most pro abbott 90% B- Cap $59--$56 $59 $59
NO TIME SGTS Alvin $5.75	249 W 52 CI 5-5226	100% C Unanimous praise soldier comedy 70% B- Cap $38--$22 $22 $21 $23 $24 Closes 8/17
SEPARATE TABLES Music Box $5.75	239 W 45 CI 6-4636	100% C- Unanimous praise for Eng. twin-bill 65% B- Cap $31--$19 $20 $20 $21 $21 Closed July
TUNNEL OF LOVE Royale $5.75	250 W 45 CI 6-8870	30% C- 2 Pro- H. Trib, News 70% B- Cap $34--$22 $30 $30 $31 $30 $30 $26
VISIT SMALL PLANET Booth $5.75	231 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- Oks mostly for Ritchard-Mayehoff antics 85% B- Cap $27- $24 $26 $26 $23 $22 $25 $27
ZIEGFELD FOLLIES Winter Garden $8.05	1634 Bway CI 5-4878	60% C- 4 Pro-Lillie only-News, Mir, Post, J. Am. 40% B- Cap $63- $27 $30 $30 $36 LAST WEEK

" OFF BROADWAY "

CAREER 7th Av S $3.45	99-7th Av S CH 2-2904	3 Pro-Times, Post, Wor-Tele-Sun
ICEMAN COMETH Circle $3.60	5 Sher Sq OR 5-9437	6 Pro-Times, Trib, Mir, J. Am, WTS, Post
IN KING CHARLES Downtown $3.45	85 E 4 OR 3-4412	6 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, WTS, Mir, Var.
LAND BEYOND RIV G. Mews	141 W 13 CH 2-9831	4 Pro-Times, Post, W. Wear, Var.
PURPLE DUST Cherry Lane$3.85	31 Comm. Ch 2-4468	4 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, WTS 2 Con- News, J. Am.
SIMPLY HEAVEN. 85th St $3.85	150 W 85 SU 7-9532	5 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, J. Am. W. Wear 1 Con- WT &S
3 SYNGE PLAYS T. East $2.80	211 E 60 TE 8-8930	5 Pro-Times, Post, Mir, J. Am, WTS 2 Con- Trib, Variety
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys $4.85	121 Chris. WA 4-8782	3 Pro-Times, Trib, Post

" RATINGS OF NYC CRITICS "

1956-57 season ratings of NYC drama critics on current Broadway shows by CRITICAL DIGEST. "%" figures are percentages of pro votes in comparison to con votes by critics on current Broadway shows. Variety 1955-56 and 1954-55 season figures are percentages of favorable reviews by critics for entire season.

20 shows	CD %	Pros	Cons	Variety 1955-56	1954-55
Atkinson, Times	75%	15	5	.490	.607
Kerr, H. Tribune	65%	13	7	.394	.354
Chapman, News	95%	19	1	.527	.580
Coleman, Mirror	85%	17	3	.454	.566
Watts, Post	90%	18	2	.541	.426
McClain, J. Am.	85%	17	3	.535	.532
Donnelley, WT&S (1955 Hawkins)	75%	15	5	.306	.549

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June 12, 1957 PLAYGOERS GUIDE chart of CRITICAL DIGEST--139 E 47, NYC EL 5-6894

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This weekly chart of CRITICAL DIGEST, the weekly NYC theatre newsletter digest, presents up-to-date data on current business and critical reception of all current Broadway and Off-Broadway shows. Subscribers to CRITICAL DIGEST may write or phone for any other specific data or for late reviews.

"C"- Critical-figures refer to percentage of PRO reviews filed by NYC daily drama critics. PRO means show was recommended as entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if the critic predicted if show would run or not.

"B"-Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales of past weeks. "%B" figures refer to percentage of past week's attendance, and indicates current availability of tickets. "Cap" figures refer to gross capacity of attraction. Figures that follow are gross estimates by VARIETY for past weeks. All figures are in thousands of dollars. Thus 100% B- Cap $68--$68--$64-$68 means that past week attraction sold out, capacity of theatre is $68,000 and week previous gross was $64,000, etc.

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AUNTIE MAME Broadhurst $5.75	238 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C- Mostly for R. Russell .0% minus RR 100% B- Cap$43--$43 $43 $43 Closed 6/29-8/5
BELLS ARE RINGING Shubert $7.50	230 W 44 CI 6-5990	80% C- Show 2- Con-Times, WTS- 100% C Judy 100% B- Cap $58--$58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58
DAMN YANKEES Adelphi $8.05	152 W 54 JU 6-3787	100% C- Unanimous praise for musical, cast, 60% B- Cap $50--$31 $29 $26 $21 $25
DIARY ANNE FRANK Ambassador $5.75	229 W 49 CO 5-1855	100% C- Unanimous praise Pulitizer Prizer 50% C- Cap $35--$17 $16 $15 $14 Closes 6/29
HAPPIST MILLION. Lyceum $5.75	150 W 45 JU 2-3897	60% C- 3 Cons- H. Trib, Post, J. Am. 75% B- Cap $26-- $17 $20 $21 $21 $19 $23 $19
HAPPY HUNTING Majestic $8.05	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	100% C- for Merman- 10% C-Mir, sole pro show 75% B- Cap $70--$50--$64 $55 $56 $58 $68
HOLE IN HEAD Plymouth $6.25	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	40% C- 3 Pro- Times, Post, J. Am. 75% B- Cap $35--$19 $25 $26 $27 $28 $30 $27
HOTEL PARADISO Miller $6.90	124 W 43 BR 9-3970	100% C- Unanimous B. Lahr, mild script. 60% B- Cap $34--$19 $24 $23 $22 $26 $27
INHERIT WIND National $5.75	208 W 41 PE 6-8220	90 % C- Funke, Times, sole con voter on show 100% B- Cap $32--$32 $27 $21 $20 $24 $23 $20
LIL ABNER St James $8.05	235 W 44 LA 4-4664	60% C- 3 Con- H. Trib, J. Am, WTS d00% B- Cap $58-- $58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58

" THEATRE CALENDAR "

Central Park Musicals 6/10
Kaleidoscope-Provincetown 6/11

School for Wives- T. Marquee 6/19
Othello- Stratford, Conn 6/22

Comedia Dell' Arte- Bleecker St 6/25
Country Wife- Renati 6/26
Show Boat- Jones Beach 6/27
Romeo & Juliet - Central Park 6/27

Lewisohn Stadium Concerts
George Gershwin Concert -July 4
My Fair Lady Excerpts -July 27
Rodgers & Hammerstein Aug 3

Merchant of Venice-Stratford, Conn 7/10
Ever Since Pradise-Carn. Rec. Hall 7/11
The Fire-Theatre Marquee 7/18

Much Ado About Nothing-Stratford 8/?

New Faces-Broadway 9/5
Evening of T. C. Jones-Golden 9/9
Hedda Gabler- 4th St 9/10
Gangway! - W. Garden 9/25
Look Back in Anger- 9/?

The Strongest- 10/2
The Egghead- 10/3
Man in Dog Suit- 10/9
Romanoff and Juliet 10/15
Copper and Brass- Beck 10/17
Honorable Macbeth- 10/28
Square Root of Wonderful-Nat. 10/31

Rumple -10/31
Rise Marlowe-Gate 10/?
Fools are Passing Thru-Fisch. Hall 10/?
Four Winds- 10/?
Casual Miracle 10/?
Babylon in Candlelight 10/?

Nine O Clock Theatre 11/4
High and Happy 11/7
La Plume de Ma Tante-Belasco 11/?
Jamaica - 11/?
Compulsion- 11/?
Cut of Ax- 11/?
Doctor Inspite Self- ANTA 11/?
Soft Touch- 11/?

Miss Isobel- 12/26
Music Man- 12/26
Dark Top of Trees 12/?
The Rivalry- 1/27/ 58
Captain's Denim 2/58

" LONDON THEATRE "

Jun 6- Free as Air- Savoy
Jun 17- Kurfurstendamn Theatre Co-Sadler Wells
Jun 18- Making of Moo- Royal Court
Jun 22- We're having a Ball- Paladium
Jun ??- Titus Andronicus - Palace

" TV THEATRE PROGRAMS "

Jun 13- CBS -Clash by Night- on Playhouse 90
Nov 3- NBC- Irving Berlin Salute
Nov 17- CBS- 7 Lively Arts debut
Nov 27- NBC- Annie Get your Gun- with Mary Martin, John Riatt.

"CD VIEWS ON CURRENT SHOWS "

PROS: Damn Yankees, Diary Anne Frank, Happiest Millionaire, Hotel Paradiso Long Days Journey, Moon for Misbegotten, Most Happy Fella, New Girl in Town, Separate Tables, Tunnel of Love Land Beyond River, 3 Irish Plays, Iceman Cometh, Career, Simply Heavenly, Purple Dust, In Good King Charles.

CONS: Ziegfeld Follies.

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